

Claims

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A method of operating a retail terminal having a weight scale, means for identifying an item to be purchased, an RFID tag antenna focused on the bagging area of the terminal, a scan error indicator, means for communicating with a processor and a memory containing a weight learning database (WLDB), the method comprising the steps of:

allowing placement of an item, having an RFID tag, to be weighed on the weight scale;

allowing identification of the item to be purchased at the weight scale;

obtaining a weight measurement of the item on the scale upon successful identification of the item;

comparing the measured weight of the identified item with a predetermined weight for that item stored in the WLDB;

wherein the comparison detects a discrepancy between the measured and pre-determined weights for the item actuating the RFID antenna in order to detect the RFID tag on the scanned item; and

wherein the item identified by the RFID tag matches the scanned item de-actuating the scan error indicator which would otherwise have been actuated by the discrepancy between the stored and measured weights for the scanned item.

2. The method of claim 1, wherein the identification of an item to be purchased is achieved by the scanning of the item utilizing a bar code scanner.

3. The method of claim 1 wherein the identification of an item to be purchased is achieved utilizing a second RFID antenna focused on the weight scale area of the terminal.
4. The method of claim 1, wherein the predetermined weight for the scanned item stored in the WLDB is up-dated based on the weight obtained from the weight scale.
5. The method of claim 1, wherein the scan error indication includes providing one of an audio indication and a visual indication.
6. A retail terminal comprising:
 - a processor;
 - memory in communication with said processor and containing program instructions operative to control said processor, said memory further storing a weight learning database (WLDB) containing a list of predetermined weights for the item on sale;
 - a scale in communication with said processor;
 - a means for identifying an item to be purchased, at the weight scale;
 - a scan error indicator in communication with the processor; and
 - an RFID tag antenna in communication with the processor, and focussed on the bagging area of the terminal;

said scale being operative to obtain a weight measurement of items placed on said scale;

the processor being arranged to compare the stored and measured weights for the identified item and to actuate the RFID antenna if there is a perceived error in the weight of the item as measured by the scale,

the processor being further arranged to compare the item identified by the means for identifying an item to be purchased and by the RFID antenna,

the scan error indicator only being actuated if the comparison of the items identified raises a discrepancy.

7. A retail terminal as claimed in claim 6, wherein the means for identifying an item to be purchased is a bar code scanner in communication with said processor.

8. The retail terminal of claim 6, wherein the means for identifying an item to be purchased is a second RFID antenna, focused on the scale area of the terminal and in communication with said processor.

9. The retail terminal of claim 6, wherein said indicator comprises one of an audio device and a video device.

10. The retail terminal of claim 6, wherein the first, or bag well, RFID tag antenna is attenuated so as not to detect tags located over the bar scale area of the terminal.

11. A checkout system comprising:

a processor;

a scale in communication with said processor and operative to obtain weight measurement of items placed on said scale;

a means for identifying items to be purchased, at the scale, and in communication with said processor; and

memory in communication with said processor and containing program instructions operative to control said processor, said memory further storing a weight learning database (WLDB) containing a list of predetermined weights for the item on sale;

said scale being operative to obtain a weight measurement of items placed on said scale;

the processor being arranged to compare the stored and measured weights for the scanned item and to actuate the RFID antenna if there is a perceived error in the weight of the item as measured by the scale,

the processor being further arranged to compare the item identified by the means for identification and the RFID antenna,

the scan error indicator only being actuated if the comparison of the items identified raises a discrepancy.

12. The checkout system of claim 11, wherein said indicator comprises one of an audio device and a video device.

13. A retail terminal as claimed in claim 11, wherein the means for identifying an item to be purchased is a bar code scanner in communication with said processor.

14. The retail terminal of claim 11, wherein the means for identifying an item to be purchased is a second RFID antenna, focused on the scale area of the terminal and in communication with said processor.